COA BOARD of DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2023

Attending: Gary Newton, Beatrice Taggart, Sandra Lemieux, Cindy Brennan, Elaine Hyland, Kathy Bussolari, Joseph Bussolari, Thelma (Jean) Douglas, Maria Malinowski, Rosanne Carlo

(ABSENT): Louise Currie, Roger Davenport

1. Meeting called to order – Pledge of Allegiance
2. Minutes of September 20, 2023 were voted/approved unanimously
3. Treasurer’s report: Cindy indicated we are at 20% of our budget. The fiscal year ended with $3,921.72 in the Donation/Gift account. There will be a carry-over of $1,994.00 totaling $5,915.72. At the MCOA Conference, discussion took place regarding Formula Grants. Any carry-over years are being blended for the years 2021, 2022, 2023.

As of June 30, 2023:

**2021**--$5,562.97 **2022**—$5,242.89 **2023**—$15,028.64

FY24 Formula Grant expenditures: $1,270.50 (2021) $9,620 (2023)

Capital Improvement Fund: $65,500 (earmarked for a new mini-van)  
MASSDOT offers a program to lease Vans. Communities without any Vans or ones with older models will have priority. Treasurer’s report was unanimously accepted.

1. Elaine Hyland provided the COA Board with an update on the status of the feasibility study of the old JFK School:
   * A meeting is scheduled with the Architects (Habeeb & Associates) on October 24, 2023 to make their final presentation of the layout (Option A) for the COA at the old JFK School. The final payment to the Architects is $4,635.00 (total contract was $46,350.00). $46,146.50 will remain in the State budget fund account in addition to the $48K which was earmarked for the COA building project totaling $94,146.50 in available funds in moving forward.
2. Board members inquired as to the possibility of expanding our current building by bumping it out in an effort to assist us now due to our lack of space. This would require approval from the Select Board and the COA Board of Directors would need to make the presentation. Also, there may be a possibility for the 3rd floor of Town Hall to be renovated and used for larger events and activities and the vans could shuttle people since there is a lack of parking. Jean Douglas, Cindy Brennan and Elaine will be setting up a meeting with Speaker Mariano’s office to discuss future State funding for the COA.
3. There are many new people visiting the COA and more expected with the 70 units at Maple Ave.
4. T-SQUARE Food Shop donated over $900.00 from the proceeds of a fundraiser raffle of 2 TV’s which the COA was the recipient.
5. There is $500K available in Grant Funds thru the MCOA and Cindy Brennan applied for multiple grants by filing a letter of intent.
6. The MCOA Conference was very helpful and there were many friendly and caring individuals. Cindy attended workshops for Dementia Friendly Towns and Memory Cafes. Studies have determined there is a 30% reduction of dementia by the foods we eat. A blood test has been developed to test for dementia.
7. The COA TV is not working and we are looking to purchase another.
8. Christopher Eddington conducted an IPAD session to enlighten Seniors how to operate them.
9. Assisted Listening Devices (ALD) are now available to use in the Noel King meeting room.

(they are available on the credenza in the meeting room and HCAM will assist you)

1. Remove the announcement in the Newsletter regarding knitting/bow making. We are unable to have these classes at this time but will reconsider in going forward.
2. Suggestions for the Newsletter: Holiday Recipes, advertise local businesses by scanning business cards and indicating a suggested donation in an effort to offset our printing costs.
3. Perhaps have a cookie swap in December at the COA.
4. The COA Petition for the November STM to properly earmark the $48K for the design, engineering and construction of a new COA collected 119 signatures; however, 110 were certified due to those residents who were not registered to vote. We did manage to have residents who were in their 40-50’s sign the petition which shows their support.
5. Since we are growing, we need to continue to encourage volunteers.
6. We have 2 van drivers and seeking another. Cindy Brennan will be handling the CORI/SORI checks as recommended by the Interim Town Administrator.
7. Cindy made the following announcements of upcoming events:

* Luncheon/Show ($50) November 8th at Norwood Theater ($1,020 cost for the bus)
* Since the Vans are not dependable, our trips are being kept “local”
* Senator Keenan office hours October 24th 5:30-7:00pm at Town Hall
* Line Dancing Thursday October 26th at 6:00pm
* Flu Clinic at the COA on Thursday October 26th from 11:00am-12:30pm
* Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton (TBD)
* December (date TBD) – Massasoit “White Christmas” play $18.00 (Sunday matinee)
* Christmas shopping was suggested using the Vans
* December 2, 2023 Town Holiday Stroll
* Monday prior to Thanksgiving: Turkey sandwiches w/fixings ($5.00 donation) and limit of 25 people. Joseph Bussolari offered to inquire with Stop & Shop in getting turkeys and would need a letter of request from the COA.
* Spring 2024, 4-piece band to perform

1. Our next meeting is November 15, 2023
2. Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hyland – Secretary COA Board